

2012 Talking Points

Libraries Still Matter

Build Them Up!

- The Montgomery County Library System cannot sustain more budget reductions. Further reductions will make it impossible to complete core library functions.
- The Library was the first department to sustain cuts. Those first cuts should be the first brought back.
- The impact of the budget reductions and reduced funding caused:
 - Sparse staff unable to be at the service points where people need them
 - Drastically reduced support for early literacy
 - Staff unable to go to Judy Centers and day care centers
 - Staff unable to visit schools to connect students to the Summer Reading program
 - Reduced collection for home schoolers
- We need to rebuild the Library by having enough funds to:
 - Get our staff back
 - Get our hours back
 - Maintain and grow our collections
 - Build digital and technology services
- In FY2012 the Library System received a budget increase that enabled our libraries to build up collections, including databases, books for young readers and digital collections. We also added back a few staff to help maintain the collection and plan and deliver early literacy programs. We need to continue to build up our libraries to meet the needs of the 68% of Montgomery County residents who have library cards.

On October 5, 2011, Snapshot Day “a day in the life of Montgomery County Libraries”

- **16,099** visitors came into library branches in Montgomery County
- **3,676** questions were answered by the information staff
- **397** people came to attend “VIP Reads” or to other programs or classes offered that day
- **25,564** items were checked out that day including books, DVDs, CDs and other materials
- **415** of those materials were eBooks or eAudio
- **5,652** database retrievals
- **27** workforce assistance actions — resumes, job applications, career guidance or small business help